

WA Member Incident

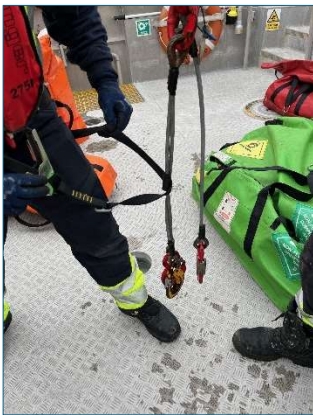
March 2024: Crewmember suspended above deck by Lifting Equipment



What happened:

A member's Crew Transfer Vessel was conducting lifting operations offshore at a wind turbine. A Deckhand and Trainee Deckhand were both on deck receiving a load consisting of four lifting bags, attached by a three-leg wire sling. The Trainee landed the load, detached the load from the slings, and gave the signal to the Crane Operator to raise the lifting equipment.

As the hook and wire sling raised, it became entangled within the Trainee's work restraint lanyard and he immediately gave the signal to **emergency stop**. The Crane Operator did not see or hear the signal and crewmember was lifted from the deck. Whilst the crewmember was suspended above the deck, their weight naturally freed the entanglement and the crewmember fell between 1 to 2 metres onto a group of lifting bags on deck.



Why did it happen?

- The crewmember's lanyard was worn in a loose position where it could become easily snagged.
- The crewmember was too close to the lifting equipment when it was raised, without a tag-line or holding onto the equipment to guide it free of entanglement.
- The Crane Operator did not see or respond to the emergency stop signal.

Potential consequences:

Potential for a major injury had the crewmember been lifted higher, outboard of the vessel, or without a cushioned landing.

Corrective actions:

Investigation conducted, the Risk Assessment and lifting procedure are to be reviewed and a Safety Alert created to share lessons learnt.

Lessons learned:

- Ensure that lanyards are properly secured and are kept away from entanglement / entrapment hazards, such as lifting accessories, moving parts etc.
- Ensure that all lifting accessories are fully clear, including the path of any lifting accessories, before instructing the crane operator to raise the equipment.
- It is vital that the slinger either steps away from any lifting accessories or manually guides any lifting accessories before signalling a lift, to prevent any snagging.
- Never assume that someone will be aware of a hazard, especially less experienced colleagues – always speak up.
- Always pay attention during a lifting operation, even where there is no load or the lift is underway and the lifting accessories are believed to be clear of obstructions.